

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of Research

Poetry is part of the literary works that are important to analyze because they contain intricate components including themes, figurative language, rhyme, and messages. As stated by Laurence Perrine in his book *An Introduction to the Poetry* (1977) that the oldest form of literature is poetry, people used to get these kinds of stories from storytellers when they did not know anything about written language. Many of the stories were based on the storyteller's recollection rather than written language. There is no clear boundary between poetry and other genres of imaginative literature (9). To really comprehend a poem, one must read it several times. When someone reads a book or a novel, they can read it once and immediately comprehend it. Poetry is not the expression of rational thought or a scientific idea, but the skill of combining words in meter and phrase to impact the mind in the same way that music does (Nature 259). Poets can use poetry to convey a variety of messages in addition to expressing sentiments.

Human is a complicated creature that is able to upgrade or create something new by having ability to comprehend knowledge. This ability surely affects the circumstances of nature neared by human civilization. Therefore, Ted Hughes has a serious concern about the side effects of the development of humanity to the sustainability of nature. Hughes' ideas are bestowed to his writings mainly in *Ted Hughes' selected poems*. Hereby, I am choosing "Hawk Roosting", "Pike",

“Thrushes”, “Cat and Mouse”, and “Wind” as the main discussions to analyze the relationship between humans and nature. These poems likely mention the imbalanced circumstances of the animal population in wildlife, natural sustainability, or even climate change that triggers natural disasters because of human behavior. Yet, Ted Hughes’ ideas are important to be comprehended because they will open human vision to look at the world in a balanced way where humans have to keep nature sustainably. After all, the growth of nature determines the future life of humanity.

In this research, I assume that Hughes' nature poems can show how much a poet cares about the world. Poets not only use nature as an object, but they also intend to criticize global problems or phenomena and describe how humans and nature interact. In this case, Hughes also criticized ecophobia attitude that occurred at that time. Readers can then discover the problems they are facing in their lives and learn what they need to do and to solve those problems by reading nature poetry. In addition, readers can show how they protect environment. Moreover, I presume the poems are meant to be seen as a reflection of English society in the 20th century, which serves as their setting.

This research also reveals Ted Hughes' underlying teachings, which the writer feels contain various ideals that explain ecophobia in terms of how people handle the environment. As stated by Simon in the journal *Theorizing in a Space of Ambivalent Openness: Ecocriticism and Ecophobia*, the research showed that Ecophobia is an illogical and unfounded fear of nature that is as prevalent and subtle in our daily lives and literature as homophobia, racism, and sexism are (6). I chose

to investigate Ted Hughes' poems such as "Hawk Roosting", "Pike", "Thrushes", "Cat and Mouse", and "Wind". Natural elements such as animals and wind are also used in these poems to convey imagery to compare with ecophobia.

I choose the poems because they represent ecophobia. Human arrogance and superiority are demonstrated in "Hawk Roosting". "Pike" describes how people mistreat nature. The "Wind" represents the fear of nature's forces. Furthermore, "Cat and Mouse" conveys human fear of the natural order. Moreover, "Thrushes" portrays a contrast between nature and humans. All of these poems were written in the twentieth century and are supposed to be a reflection of society and nature in the era.

Therefore, I want to analyze the poems more deeply and try to focus on ecocriticism. Then "ecophobia" is used to analyze human's fear of nature or the elements associated with nature.

### 1.2 Identification of the Problem

I want to explore Ted Hughes' nature poetry about humans' relationship with nature. The significance of each line of the poem demonstrates the natural world. In the poems, most of the characters do not make sensible use of nature and continue to ruin it. Nature, on the other hand, is helpful to mankind. I am curious about how ecophobia is depicted in Ted Hughes' poems entitled "Hawk Roosting", "Pike", "Thrushes", "Cat and Mouse", and "Wind". As a result, the focus of this research is on describing human fear of natural forces that causes humans to ruin nature and how Ted Hughes criticized 20th-century British society's ecophobia.

attitude. This is an intriguing subject to be analyzed, and I believe these poems include essential lessons for the reader.

### 1.3 Scope of the Research

Ecophobia between humans and nature is the significance of this research. It can be a great interest to readers since it provides information about environmental issues, particularly how humans treat nature and the human-nature relationship. Thus, the focus of this study is on ecocriticism as reflected in Ted Hughes' poems.

### 1.4 Research Questions

The following are research questions of the research:

1. How does Ted Hughes present nature in his poems “Hawk Roosting”, “Pike”, “Thrushes”, “Cat and Mouse”, and “Wind”?
2. How does Ted Hughes present ecophobia in poems “Hawk Roosting”, “Pike”, “Thrushes”, “Cat and Mouse”, and “Wind”?

### 1.5 Objective of the Research

The objective of this research is to examine the relationship between humans and nature by looking at ecophobia in poems entitled “Hawk Roosting”, “Pike”, “Thrushes”, “Cat and Mouse”, and “Wind”. I determine the ecophobia in Ted Hughes's poems, which reflects 20<sup>th</sup> century society of England.

### 1.6 Review of Related Studies

Literary critics utilize Ted Hughes' nature poetry as an object to analyze, and they use a variety of ideas to do so. Some of them also talk about the human-

nature relationship. To support their findings, I discuss an article that examines the same topics in Hughes' poetry, like the article written by Bandyopadhyay, Nibedita. *"Ted Hughes and His Animal World: Analysis of Ted Hughes by the Yardstick of Eco-Criticism"*. *Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal*, 2 (4), 2013, pp. 1-6. This article explains and examines some of Ted Hughes' poems through the lens of Eco-Criticism. The "Hawk Roosting", "Thrushes", "The Hawk in the Rain", "An Otter", "The Howling of Wolves", "The Horses", "The Bull Moses", "The Jaguars", and "Wind" are Ted Hughes' nature poems that I discuss. She claims that Hughes utilized animals as objects to convey information to readers and that each animal in his poem serves as a symbol in and of itself because animals play a crucial role in the preservation of nature. In addition, this article states that Ted Hughes can make people aware of the importance of protecting and not destroying nature and not torturing nature. Because it can have a negative impact in the future. This study is really useful to me because it discusses the same object from the same author and the same theory. The author covers a few of Ted Hughes' poems in her research, however, she only provides lines from *The Hawk in the Rain* to illustrate her points rather than from other poems. The author doesn't cite other people's viewpoints to back her points in any of the explanations in this article.

An article by Inan Dilek and Merve Nur Boldan state in *"An Ecocritical Reading of Ted Hughes's 'Hawk Roosting'"*. *Journal of Social Sciences Institute*, 21 (40), 2018, pp. 53 - 62.) that ecocriticism is highlight human cruelty to nature, as shown in "Hawk Roosting". They claim that the hawk is a metaphor for the poem's meanings and messages. Furthermore, they refer to the hawk as a symbol of

human nature. The significance of “Hawk Roosting” and its aspects are also included in this article. “Hawk Roosting” is one of the poems that the writer examines for his research, and this article contributes to the completion of that research, which employs the same theory. According to me, it is extremely perceptive, especially in “Hawk Roosting” poem. The author explores the poem's content and connects it to ecocriticism. Additionally, a brief history of Ted Hughes and the poem's author is included in this article. The author demonstrates how the relationship between people and eagles is demonstrated in every word of the poem. The author's conclusion to the analysis, which links this poetry to politics and war, strikes me as the research's weakest point because it is not properly explained.

Shekhawat Anupama's study (2012), *The Cohesive Use of Animal Imagery in The Poems of Ted Hughes - A Study* is an article describes the cohesive use of animal imagery in the poems of Ted Hughes. She claims that Hughes was one of the best naturalist writers, as can be seen from the imagery of animals in these works. She objected to Hughes' interest in animals and the environment in his poetry. She mention that Hughes focused on animals as a way of expressing his views on the human situation. In my opinion, this study is really useful to me because it discusses the same object from the same author.

Next, Faria Tasnim Chowdhury of the University of Asia Pacific wrote an article titled "Ted Hughes' Poems as the Pessimistic Mirror of Nature" (*Research Journal of English Language and Literature*, Vol.7, No.1 (2019), pp. 122-127). Hughes, according to the author, exposes the reader to the negative side of nature, which may be observed more vividly in some of his literary works. For example, in

the poem “Wind”, the horrific situation is conveyed through auditory, visual, and tactile descriptions. This also explains why fury is appealing in “The Jaguar”. Hughes, according to this article, did not simply observe nature from its first 'layer,' but also pointed out the dreadful facts and attempted to depict them in a good light by blending beauty with brutality. According to me, this article really explains Ted Hughes' poem in a very complex way. This article will assist me in understanding the significance of each Ted Hughes poem. It is also especially important to understand the meaning of the poem “Wind” because this is a part of the poem that I discuss.

An article by Romadhon, Rohmah, the title is “*An Analysis of Environmental Issues Using Ecocriticism in James Cameron's film AVATAR*”. Jakarta, State University Syarif Hidayatullah. 2011. Pdf. In this article, the author uses an ecocritical approach to study the environmental issues of the film AVATAR. The relationship between humans, non-humans, and the environment on other planets is depicted in this article. The author claims that human exploitation of the world causes a catastrophe and that nonhumans are the ones that preserve the planet from human exploitation. It is one of ecocriticism's worries regarding two types of people and their impacts on nature and the environment. The conclusions are not well supported because she does not briefly discuss the author's life or his environmental activities. Thus, Using the same idea as a guide, this article assists the writer in learning more about ecocriticism and provides me with additional information about sources that may be useful for this research.



The following study, which also applied the same theory, was stated in a Syakinah thesis. The title is “The Impact of Human Behavior on Nature as Reflected in The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician’s Nephew by C.S. Lewis: An Ecocritical Reading.” *Andalas University*, 2017, pp. 1–53. This thesis is accomplished by emphasizing the importance of biophilic and ecophobic behaviors in encouraging humans to handle nature responsibly. Overall, this thesis offers a thorough analysis of how the Narnia depicts both good and damaged nature. This study can be used to back up thoughts on similar topics. I think that this thesis is useful and relevant to their issue since the writer applies ecophobia criticism in this approach. Furthermore, this thesis assists me in organizing the notion by providing additional proof or supporting ideas not only from the object but also from the ecocriticism and ecophobia perspectives.

